

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

editorial

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If reason prevails co-op will be ok'd

The ancillary services department of the York administration and the Oasis (run by United Cigar Stores) have no reason or right to stall or stop the creation of a community food co-operative on this campus.

Either group may point to UCS's "no competition" clause as "justification" for driving the Black Creek Food Co-op off the campus or right off the planning board.

Since when has a co-op dealing in whole foods in bulk quantities ("whole" meaning those edibles which have not been over-packaged, over-processed and polluted with additives) ever competed with a Becker's-type convenience store? How many people have been seen waddling out of the Oasis, loaded down with produce, fruit, grains, vegetables, cheeses and nuts?

Oasis is already operating in a corner store wonderland. They are protected by a long contract, a property tax exemption, and the no competition clause. They are exempt to the tax because York is isolated, but enjoy a captive market for the same reason. Their rosy setup does not deserve protection from competition, imagined or real.

In fact the Oasis is competing with other stores, namely the university bookstore (magazines and school supplies) and the drug store (school supplies and munchies). So why the hesitation in allowing the introduction of a non-profit food co-op run by community members, with virtually no overlap?

It seems the university, in its zeal to protect the Central Square merchants, has forgotten about the people who are this university.

Food co-ops have sprung up all over the city — and the last places where one would imagine them being banned would be universities, those advance guards of social progress.

YUTA's (York University Tenants Association) offer of office space for the Black Creek Co-op — an example of sectors of the community working together — has been vetoed by the administration, which insists that Black Creek would have to pay rent. The university seems unable to understand that this is *not* a profit proposition; it is a non-profit service created by York members, like Harbinger or the Women's Centre.

It may turn out that CYSF will have objections to the Co-op, as it is interested in turning the Oasis' space into a co-op store when UCS' contract expires in 1979.

CYSF should set their sights a little lower. Taking over the Oasis is too big a project for an organization with little money, ever-changing personnel and a lot of other problems to solve.

Doug Holland has the experience to make the less grandiose Black Creek venture work. There should be no interference and no delay in the green light for this project.

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"So what's your problem? You can go to another store if you don't like our prices."

Bucks for books a necessity

Two large bulldozers squeezed old York U. for a while the other day — and several thousand books popped out of the holes.

The bulldozers were the heavy-duty twins called "skyrocketing costs" and "dwindling funds."

The squeeze was a hundred grand cutback in bucks for the library, announced for next year.

The books are lying all over the ground.

Or rather, they're all over the shelves, in no particular order.

How many times have you wandered into Scott looking for HZ 123.8 and found it wedged between AB 456.7 and ZZ33.89? It's not quite that bad in the stacks, but it's getting there.

Fact is, there aren't enough employees in the library to keep the shelves in half decent shape. There's not the money in the libraries' kitty to hire enough.

And this latest cutbacks squeeze will make it even worse.

Now, it seems to us that that is pretty serious.

After all, what is more important to a university than its central

staff
meeting
today,
1 p.m.

library? You can't do much without books.

And it seems pretty clear that this \$100,000 cutback will have as an end result, a further downward slide in the quality of education we can expect from studying at York.

Now we appreciate the administration's dilemma. They really do have to try to pay ever growing bills from an ever-shrinking wallet.

We might just politely ask them why they so complacently accept the fact that the government can't raise the funds for post-secondary education, for libraries.

The Ontario Federation of Students contends that individual taxpayers are unjustly being forced to carry almost the entire burden for financing post-secondary education, while the corporate sector is getting off scot free.

We might ask the Board of Governors (highest governing body in York's administrative hierarchy) why they don't investigate that claim, and if it holds water pressure the government into making corporations pay their share, for universities, libraries, and books and things.

"Listen BOG" we might say, "Why don't you make Noranda Mines, and Toronto - Dominion Bank, and the Bank of Nova Scotia and Eaton's, and all those other big wealthy corporations, help us little people foot the bill for post-secondary education?"

Perhaps their lack of response could be explained by the fact that our BOG members are by and large directors of Noranda Mines, Toronto - Dominion, Bank of Nova Scotia, Eatons and all those other big wealthy corporations.

a bit more news

You don't convert to metric overnight

By Bruce Gates

By January, 1978, York will start to feel the presence of the International System of Units (SI) metric system as it gradually is phased into the university's daily operations.

"We're just getting into discussions now about what has to be done," says Ross Dawson, chairman of campus planning and York's metrication co-ordinator.

"We have a metrication committee under way and we're holding regular meetings on metric conversion."

York still retains within its boundaries many of the old road signs that still give speeds in Imperial measurement, even though the rest of Ontario has changed over to metric. But Dawson says this situation will change soon, the signs to become one of

York's first conversion jobs.

"I can see conversion going on for three or four years," Dawson says, "because you don't just convert overnight."

York should be completely converted, according to plans, by mid-1982. By then paper sizes, machine shop tools and instructional manuals will be changed.

A quick look at the history of Imperial measurement will show why the metric system is being adopted.

The inch is reported to have been arrived at by some genius who placed three barley-corns side-by-side and measured their width. The yard on the other hand, has a royal past: someone measured the distance between King Henry I's nose and his fingertip, to arrive at it.

The marching distance of a Roman legion

in 1000 double steps of, mille passus, became the mile.

Metric measurement has a less colourful but more exacting past. In the 18th century the Paris Academy developed a new system based on the meter, which is one ten-millionth the distance between the equator and the earth's poles.

A more exact measurement of the meter is inscribed on a platinum-iridium bar, stored at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures near Paris.

Since its development the metric system has gained world-wide acceptance. It was out of necessity that Canada decided to go metric in the first place.

By 1978 the European Common Market, one of Canada's chief export markets, will accept only those products with metric

labels and measurements.

"We're committed now as far as Canada is concerned," adds Dawson.

While Canadians fret and stew learning the new system, they can take a *measure* of comfort in the knowledge that metric measurements, based on simple multiples of ten, are simpler and more efficient than Imperial ones.

If you are anti-metric, you are fighting a losing battle.

The British are even coming out with a metric Bible; nothing it seems, is sacred anymore.

So with visions of metric dancing in our heads we can head to our favourite bars and order a few litres.

Or we can drive a kilometer to MacDonald's and have a 113 gram'er.